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History on display

AutumnFest brings young and old to King Caesar House

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Despite the wind and a fall chill in the air, Duxbury residents came out Sunday to the King Caesar House on Powder Point for the Duxbury Rural and Historical Society's AutumnFest celebration.

The King Caesar House is named after its original inhabitant, shipbuilder and merchant Ezra Weston, who was known as "King Caesar" due to his larger-than-life status in town.

DR&HS President Ken Johnston said AutumnFest, now in its third year, is meant to be an introduction to the community rather than a money-making event.

"Instead of a fundraiser, this is a friend-raiser," he said.

DR&HS Director Patrick Browne said the AutumnFest was designed as a family-friendly event.

"We want to get all ages interested in history," he said. "It's a matter of trying to find a way for kids to access and enjoy it."

The King Caesar House is the society's primary museum, Browne said. It is often the site of lectures and other events, as well as tours.

AutumnFest involved arts and crafts, and a "pumpkin hunt" for kids. Hobby Knoll Farm gave horse-drawn carriage rides around Powder Point, and the 22nd Massachu-



Duxbury Rural and Historical Society Director Patrick Browne, who is also commander of the 22nd Massachusetts Civil War re-enactment regiment, shows some of the eager young "recruits" at AutumnFest.

setts, a Civil War re-enactment group commanded by Browne, gave all the young boys in attendance lessons in marching and drilling.

The Gloucester Hornpipe and Clog Society also provided period music.

Another tradition of AutumnFest is the pie contest, won this year (and the past three years) by Michelle Man-

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Duxbury Rural and Historical Society President Ken Johnston and Betsy Hunter judged the pie contest.

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ware for her "Dux-berry Pie."
Johnson said that he hoped all the children in attendance Sunday would be "future volunteers."
"Only if you have an ap-

preciation for the history are you going to be worried about preserving it for the future," he said.
Browne echoed the sentiment.
"It's the mission of the so-

ciety to preserve the heritage of the town," he said. "Preserving it is one thing, but it's also important to get the information out there, so people can understand how their community came to be."



Sharon Packard, Guy Cleary and Rebecca Packard came to the King Caesar House in period dress.



Ellie Mraz and Kate Strong dance to the sounds of the Gloucester Hornpipe and Clog Society.



Sue Mangione works on a count cross-stitch project. The small wooden frame on the left is a cross-stitch done in 1832 by a 12-year-old from Hingham.



Samantha Copp and Carly Tillotsa grilled free hot dogs for the crowds at AutumnFest.



The "recruits" stand at attention.



Jeff and James Lawrence toss a baseball around at the Civil War encampment at AutumnFest at the King Caesar House Sunday.



Frank Mangione led tours through the King Caesar House. Here he shows guest the east parlor.



April Glova paints a miniature pumpkin with purple glitter.



Horse-drawn carriage rides around Powder Point were one of the highlights of the AutumnFest.



The Gloucester Hornpipe and Clog Society provided a musical backdrop for Sunday's AutumnFest at the King Caesar House.